

**The Catholic Parish
of
Our Lady, Star of the Sea**



4th Week of Advent, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week IV

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means ‘God-with-us’.”

Matthew 1:23

Parish Priest: **Fr Pádraig Hawkins**
Parish Priest's Phone Number: **01502-572453**
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Parish Address: **The Catholic Presbytery**
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NR32 1NL

Parish Web Site: www.ourladystarofthesealowestoft.wordpress.com

R.C. Diocese of East Anglia:
A Registered Charity (Charity Commission No. 278742)

Parish Church: Catholic Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Gordon Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1NL.

Chapel of Ease: St Nicholas' Catholic Church, Morton Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0JQ.

Other Clergy: Rev. Fr. Stephen Bould; Rev. Fr. Neville McClement, Rev. Mr. Stephen Pomeroy.

Sacramental Preparation: Applications are made by Contacting Fr Pádraig – one month's notice is required for the Sacrament of Baptism and six months' notice for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Parish Newsletter: Items for consideration need to be sent to Fr Pádraig - frpmfoh@gmail.com – by Wednesday Evening please. The Completed Newsletter will be posted on the Website each Saturday.

Gospel Reflection

“Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: “Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” (Matthew 1:18). The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke). We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes. The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means “Yahweh saves.” He will be the fulfilment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: “. . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us].” Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.”

Please do visit the “Wednesday Word” Website each week for short Reflections on the Sunday Readings: <http://www.wednesdayword.org/sunday-gospel.htm>

CWL Notices

CWL Raffle tickets for the Christmas Hampers, will be on sale before/after all Masses this weekend - 17/18th Dec. The draw will take place after 11am Mass on Sunday 18th December in the Church Hall. This is part of our fundraising efforts in order to support some of our chosen charities who need our help.

****NB – Always Check the Newsletter for Changes to Weekday Mass Times****



Christmas Masses & Service Times



Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve:

5pm – Vigil Mass of the Nativity – at Our Lady’s
8:30pm – Service of Readings & Carols – at Our Lady’s
9pm – Mass During the Night – at Our Lady’s

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day:

9am – Mass of the Dawn – at St Nicholas’
11am – Mass of the Day – at Our Lady’s



From Monday 26th through to Saturday 31st (The Octave of Christmas) Mass each day will be at 10am in the Parish Church of Our Lady’s.

Please put the above notice about Christmas Mass & Service times in your diary, on your fridge, or wherever else might be helpful! Please also give a copy to anyone who might like to come to one of the services. Why not think about making a personal invitation to someone? Christmas is one of those times when it becomes ‘socially acceptable’ to go to church, so even those who do not usually attend are normally much more open to being invited to Mass – “come and see” is, after all, an invitation given to all from Jesus.

Catholic Primary School

A reminder to all our parents that the local Catholic Primary School is St Mary’s, located on Kirkley Cliff Road (NR33 0DG). For anyone who is considering a school placement for their child, from reception through to Year 6, I would recommend contacting the school and arranging either a tour or a meeting with the Head of School, Mrs Ewa Parker. For more information please visit: <https://www.stmarysrcps.com> or Tel: 01502 565384.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week’s collection which amounted to £300.69 (Plus the regular standing orders of c.£403). Your continued financial support for your parish, the diocese and the wider Universal Church is much needed and very much appreciated.

We Pray for...

We pray for all in our Parish who are currently unwell and who are suffering from illness of one kind or another, praying especially for the housebound who are not able to join us for regular worship. We pray also for those who have recently passed away and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time; may they rest in peace. Names of the Sick and the Deceased may be written in the Parish Prayer Books and will be prayed for. We pray in a special way for our new **Bishop, Peter Collins**, who now takes up his ministry as the Chief Shepherd of our Diocese. May God keep him always in His care.

Mass & Service Times for the Coming Week: December 18th – December 24th

- Saturday 17th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for:
- Sunday 18th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(4th Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 18th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for:
- Monday 19th - 10:00 – Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for:
- Tuesday 20th - 12:00 – Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for:
- Wednesday 21st - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 22nd - 9:30 - St Nicholas'** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for:
- Friday 23rd - 08:00 - Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 24th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 24th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(Christmas Eve, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Saturday 24th - 21:00 - Our Lady's** *(Christmas Eve, Year A)*
Offered for: A Private Intention
- Sunday 25th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(Christmas Day, Year A)*
Offered for: James & Edna McNamee (RIP)
- Sunday 25th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(Christmas Day, Year A)*
Offered for: A Private Intention

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place every week during Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (from 9:30 to c.10am) following the 9am Mass on Saturday Morning. One may also make an appointment with Fr Pádraig for confession at another suitable time.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered for someone, living or deceased, or for a particular intention (exams, interview, etc.), please collect a pre-printed envelope from the back of the church. Details of your request, including the preferred date, can then be entered on the front of the envelope (legibly please) and then your offering may be placed inside before being given to Fr Pádraig.
